



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 27, 1998

S. 1892

A bill to provide that a person closely related to a judge of a court exercising judicial power under article III of the United States Constitution (other than the Supreme Court) may not be appointed as a judge of the same court, and for other purposes

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on May 21, 1998

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1892 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because S. 1892 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1892 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Enacting this bill would prohibit the appointment of an article III judge to a court, other than the Supreme Court, where a member of his or her immediate family, including first cousins, already serves. As a result, the Department of Justice and the President, who are responsible for reviewing candidates for judgeships, would have to expand their review to ensure the exclusion of such candidates. However, CBO does not expect that adding this additional requirement to the appointment process would impose any significant cost on the federal government.

The staff contact for this estimate is Susanne S. Mehlman. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.